

REMARKS**I. Status of the Application**

Claims 1-13 and 31-33 are pending in this application.

On November 1, 2005 Applicants filed a Response to an Office Action that was mailed on May 3, 2005. The Response included amendments to the specification and drawings, along with the required extension fees. The Advisory Action indicates that the amendments to the specification and drawings filed on November 1, 2005 would not be entered, as they raised new issues that would require further consideration and/or search, and that they were not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal. This position in the Advisory Action was based on the premise that the May 3, 2005 Office Action was a Final Office Action.

However, there was confusion as to whether or not the Office Action was properly labeled as such. The Summary of the May 3, 2005 Office Action had indicated that it was non-final. However, the Office Action also included a Conclusion indicating that the Office Action was final.

It is Applicant's understanding, based on a telephonic interview with the Examiner held on January 19, 2006, that due to the confusion generated by the conflicting characterizations of the May 3, 2005 Office Action, the finality of the May 3, 2005 Office Action is being withdrawn and that the amendments filed on November 1, 2005 will be entered.

In order to clarify the record, Applicants respectfully request that any paper issued by the Examiner in response to this Amendment, whether it be a Notice of Allowance or a further Office Action, confirm that the finality of the May 3, 2005 Office Action has been withdrawn.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication in the Advisory Action that the claim rejections based on U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0081478 to Busenbender have been withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of pending claims 1-13 and 31-33 is respectfully requested. If a telephone conversation with Applicant's attorney would expedite prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at (617) 720-9600.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0733.

Respectfully submitted,

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